IN THE CLAIMS:

In view of the Examiner's position in the restriction requirement, please cancel claims 1-9, 18, 19, 29-30 and 41-45 without prejudice for reintroduction in this or a later filed application.

Please add new claims 46-62 as follows.

46. (New) A method comprising:

(a) admixing an aliquot of sample under biological assay conditions with a combination of two or more affinity ligands, wherein the affinity ligands are selected from the group consisting of an anti-human antibody, an affinity ligand having binding specificity for a sialoadhesin family member, and an affinity ligand having binding specificity for an epitope comprising a terminal alpha 2,6-linked sialic acid, and wherein at least one of the affinity ligands comprises a detection reagent;

(b) measuring an amount of the detection reagent which is bound to the sample to determine a value of a marker in the sample;

(c) comparing the value of the marker in the sample to a comparative reference value;

wherein the comparing indicates the presence or absence of a disease condition.

47. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of plasma, and serum.

48. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein at least one of the affinity ligands comprising the detection reagent further comprises a detectable moeity.

49. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein at least one of the affinity ligands comprises an affinity ligand immobolized to a solid phase.

50. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein the anti-human antibody is selected from the group consisting of an anti-human IgG mAb, an anti-human IgM mAb, and a combination thereof.

51. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein the affinity ligand having binding specificity for an epitope comprising a terminal alpha 2,6-linked sialic acid comprises an anti-sTn mAb.

52. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein the affinity ligand having binding specificity for a member of the sialoadhesin family comprises an affinity ligand selected from the group consisting of an anti-human MAG mAb, an anti-CD22 mAb, and a combination thereof.

53. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein the combination of two or more affinity ligands is a combination selected from the group consisting of anti-α(2,6) NeuAc Ab and an anti-human IgG mAb, anti-sTn mAb and anti-human IgG mAb, anti-human MAG mAb and anti-human IgM mAb, anti-human MAG mAb and anti-human IgG mAb, anti-human MAG mAb and anti-α(2,6) NeuAc Ab, anti-human MAG mAb and anti-sTn mAb, anti-human MAG mAb and anti-human CD22mAb, anti-human CD22 mAb and anti-human IgM mAb, anti-human CD22 mAb and anti-human IgG mAb, anti-human CD22 mAb and anti-α(2,6) NeuAc Ab, anti-human CD22 mAb and anti-sTn mAb, and a combination thereof.

54. (New) A method comprising:

(a) admixing an aliquot of sample under biological assay conditions with a combination of two or more affinity ligands, wherein the affinity ligands are selected from the group consisting of an anti-human antibody, an affinity ligand having binding specificity for a sialoadhesin family member, and an affinity ligand having binding specificity for an epitope comprising a terminal alpha 2,6-linked sialic acid, and wherein at least one of the affinity ligands comprises a detection reagent;

(b) determining a level of the detection reagent which is bound to the sample;

(c) comparing the level of the detection reagent to a comparative reference;

(d) deriving an indicator for the presence or absence of a disease condition selected form the group consisting of MS, a pro-MS immune response, and a combination thereof based on the comparing.

55. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the indicator may be used in a process selected from the group consisting of prognostically, for monitoring any effect of treatment on the course of the disease condition, and or for predicting a response of the disease condition to a therapeutic agent.

56. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the sample is selected from the group consisting of plasma, and serum.

57. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein at least one of the affinity ligands comprising the detection reagent further comprises a detectable moeity.

58. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein at least one of the affinity ligands comprises an affinity ligand immobolized to a solid phase.

59. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the anti-human antibody is selected from the group consisting of an anti-human IgG mAb, an anti-human IgM mAb, and a combination thereof.

60. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the affinity ligand having binding specificity for an epitope comprising a terminal alpha 2,6-linked sialic acid comprises an anti-sTn mAb.

61. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the affinity ligand having binding specificity for a member of the sialoadhesin family comprises an affinity ligand selected from the group consisting of an anti-human MAG mAb, an anti-CD22 mAb, and a combination thereof.

62. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the combination of two or more affinity ligands is a combination selected from the group consisting of anti-α(2,6) NeuAc Ab and an anti-human IgG mAb, anti-sTn mAb and anti-human IgG mAb, anti-human MAG mAb and anti-human IgM mAb, anti-human MAG mAb and anti-human IgG mAb, anti-human MAG mAb and anti-α(2,6) NeuAc Ab, anti-human MAG mAb and anti-sTn mAb, anti-human MAG mAb and anti-human CD22mAb, anti-human CD22 mAb and anti-human IgM mAb, anti-human CD22 mAb and anti-human IgG mAb, anti-human CD22 mAb and anti-α(2,6) NeuAc Ab, anti-human CD22 mAb and anti-sTn mAb, and a combination thereof.